

# Baja California & the Sea of Cortez

Naturetrek Tour Report

21 February – 6 March 2015

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Report compiled by Lee Morgan



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   Charles  
   Dan

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## Day 1

## Saturday 21st February

### London (Heathrow) - San Diego

After a long flight, the group arrived in a rather cloudy and overcast San Diego at a very respectable 5.15pm and quickly transferred to the nearby Ramada Airport hotel. Everyone spent a little time getting their bearings around the nearby harbour, and some took time to grab a bite to eat in one of the nearby restaurants. However, after such a long day of travel, it wasn't too long before most people opted for an early night.

## Day 2

## Sunday 22nd February

### San Diego – Board Searcher

It was a very foggy start but it soon lifted to reveal a beautiful sunny morning in San Diego's Point Loma harbour. Some of the group naturally opted for a later start and the chance to catch up on some much needed rest, but many woke early and opted for a pre-breakfast wander around the harbour. This provided some time to watch the Night Herons and Egrets searching the bait wells on the backs of the fishing boats, and a chance to listen to the raucous Lilac-crowned Parrots jostling for position in the harbour-side trees.

After breakfast, many of the group joined our guided tour of some of San Diego's nature reserves and birding hotspots, with David and Rick from the local Audubon Society. At 9am we met in the hotel lobby, before setting off on foot for some gentle birding around the picturesque harbour. The bird-watching started slowly but we quickly kick-started our day with some lovely views of lots of Western and Eared Grebes, Anna's Hummingbirds, Black Phoebe, and Belted Kingfisher to name but a few.

A short bus journey took us across the city to Lindo Lake where we watched the noisy flocks of Red-winged and Tricolored Blackbirds, Great-tailed Grackles sitting in the bulrushes along the margins of the lake. This also gave us a nice chance to see American White Pelicans, Great and Little Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons too. We also had a nice introduction to a variety of ducks and geese, including Wood Duck, Northern Shoveler and Green-winged Teal, to name but a few.

Another short bus ride and we arrived at Silverwoods, a small nature reserve set amidst the oak chaparral covered hills to the north of the city. Here we sat and enjoyed a picnic lunch around a feeding station in the heart of the reserve, giving everyone time for some very relaxed birding and the chance to watch California Ground Squirrels, Spotted and California Towhees, Scrub Jays, House Finches, Lesser Goldfinches, White-crowned Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos as they visited the feeders. We even managed to catch a glimpse of some of the real specialist birds of the chaparral such as Acorn Woodpecker and Oak Titmouse.

After lunch, we headed back across town to the San Diego River estuary where the mudflats were teeming with hundreds of American Wigeon and Blue-winged Teal, Marbled Godwit and Willet. Amidst all this, we also spotted Royal Tern, Great and Little Blue Herons, Snowy and Great Egrets, and had some great looks at Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and Buffleheads too.

We then had time to call in at Famosa Slough (another local nature reserve) where some nice views of Killdeer, and Red-tailed Hawk amongst a host of other species rounded the days birding of nicely.

We arrived back at the hotel by mid-afternoon, when we transferred our luggage to M/V Searcher. Most then took the chance to explore the harbour some more, purchase some last minute items, and to have a bite to eat, before we all boarded M/V Searcher in the late afternoon, ready to set off.

After a welcome orientation and a chance to meet Captain Art and his crew, we cast off and headed out into the rain and twinkling lights of San Diego Harbour. A quick detour via the bait pens at the entrance to the harbour meant we were treated to some lamp-lit views (and smells) of California Sea Lions and a few Black-crowned Night Herons and Great Blue Herons before eventually heading out of the harbour into some big Pacific swells.

## Day 3

Monday 23rd February

### Ensenada – Todos Santo

Having taken a battering all night from the prevailing westerly swells (a slightly unusual weather pattern), most people were already awake and were out on deck enjoying the lack of motion as we docked briefly in Ensenada Harbour in order to clear Mexican customs. A few of us watched the odd Surf Scoter diving alongside the boat, and the ospreys flew between the lampposts along the harbour wall. It wasn't long though before we departed Ensenada and slowly motored out of the harbour. We spotted a few Bottlenose Dolphins as we left the harbour, and even managed a distant glimpse of a couple of Pacific White-sided Dolphins too, as we slowly motored through the residual swells towards Todos Santo.

It was developing into a lovely day though, and we drifted slowly past Isla Todos Santos in the sunshine, and were able to catch a glimpse of a few Black Oystercatchers, a few Brown Boobies and a Pelagic Cormorant, amidst the rowdy colonies of Western Gulls and Brown Pelicans. The island's beaches had a few Harbour Seals hauled out on them, as well plenty of adult Northern Elephant Seals.

As we eventually drifted past the islands and headed south, we soon spotted the blows of numerous Gray Whales. These were north-bound animals leaving the lagoon, and we watched a few as they passed us by, but we didn't linger too long, to allow them to travel in peace.

We continued our journey south, on a rolling Pacific swell. We were joined briefly by the occasional passing group of Common Dolphins that casually travelled in our wake or played on the bow. It was a pleasantly quiet afternoon for wildlife, giving people a much-needed chance to rest. However, those that remained vigilant were able to watch as a constant passage of Black-vented Shearwaters went wheeling by, and as Cassin's Auklets, Scripps's Murrelets and the odd flock of Grey Phalaropes fluttered frenetically from the bow of the boat.

As the seas calmed a little, we continued our journey into the night, under a beautiful starry sky, and onwards towards the dry, stable land of Isla San Benitos

## Day 4

Tuesday 24th February

## Isla San Benitos

It was another very early start to the day. However, after a more gentle night's travel, it was good to see lots of smiling pink faces enjoying a good breakfast and preparing themselves for our day ashore on Isla San Benito.

The seas were a little choppy, and Heermann's Gulls wheeled around the boat as we boarded the skiffs for the first time. The sunny weather and blustery wind provided cool conditions for our walk, and there was plenty of wildlife to enjoy. Even the landing beach was covered with exhausted bull Elephant Seals (some of which were harbouring some nasty wounds from their battles with each other). As we continued our walk, we found plenty of Elephant Seal pups, a few adult females, the odd California Sea Lion, and we had some distant but lovely views of the rare Guadeloupe Fur Seals and even a Harbour Seal too. It was a fantastic "pinniped day" (the Pinnipedia being seals and walruses). Many people also took the time to admire the flowers and, as always, the island's Ospreys proved to be a very big hit with the photographers!

Our stop at the old lighthouse for lunch provided everyone with a chance to see Horned Larks, singing from the scrub patches nearby. Birding around the rest of the island was good too, with good views of Peregrines, the endemic island race of the Savannah Sparrow, some Rufous Hummingbirds, a Red-tailed Hawk that was being chased by an Osprey, Black Brant and Black Turnstone.

The wind persisted all day though, and our return to the Searcher through the sloppy sea conditions made for a damp skiff ride. However, it was all great fun and, by 2.30pm, we were all safely back onboard the boat and ready to set off once again. Fortunately for us, the messy sea conditions were all following us, providing us with a relatively smooth ride as we continued our journey south.

## Day 5

## Wednesday 25th February

### San Ignacio

After a peaceful night (comparatively) of travel, we approached San Ignacio Lagoon soon after breakfast, and we all watched for whales as we motored slowly and carefully over the shallow sandbar at the entrance to the lagoon. All eyes were fixed on the sea as whales surfaced all around us and we motored slowly to our anchorage.

After a quick briefing on the lagoon, we were quickly ushered into pangas for our first close-up introduction to the Gray Whales. The local panga drivers were excellent, and skilfully manoeuvred into position so we could get the best look at some of the whales. The whales were unbelievably relaxed, and it wasn't long before the Gray Whales (mostly cows with calves) approached our pangas, to take a closer look at us. We then spent a wonderful 90 minutes interacting with whales on their own terms, as they excitedly surfaced close to the boat, allowing us to stroke their heads and rub their tummies. As always, the whales provided a truly extraordinary wildlife experience for all, and every single person returned to the Searcher with the telltale smiles of some very contented whale watchers.

After a quick lunch, we boarded the pangas again and spent another exhilarating afternoon out with the whales, providing everyone with the chance for more contact with these amazing creatures, and the chance to watch some incredible behaviour, including whales fluking, breaching and spy-hopping.

Later in the afternoon, we all visited one of the lagoon's beautifully pristine beaches where, under Rob's expert guidance, we had a closer look at a dead Gray Whale, and were given an interesting talk on the more detailed anatomy of these amazing marine mammals. Whilst at the beach, we also enjoyed photographing the amazing array of beautiful sea shells, dolphin skulls, turtle carapace, corals and desiccated fish that littered the strandline, as well as playing "guess the animal", from the numerous tracks and trails left in the sand.

But our day did not finish there. After dinner, we all made our way out to the rear deck of the boat and, with the ship's generator and lights turned off, we spent the evening under a spectacular, starry sky, enjoying the peace and quiet and listening for the sounds of whales blowing in the lagoon around us, and the distant howl of coyotes in the deserts beyond.

## Day 6

## Thursday 26th February

### San Ignacio and heading south

We whale-watched from the pangas from about 7.30am until mid afternoon (stopping only briefly for snacks and lunch) and we were all provided with lots more lovely whale encounters: breaching, spyhopping, splashing around the boats, and some great friendly encounters too. Some even enjoyed the thrill of being pushed around in circles by a very friendly cow-calf pair for most of one session too. However, the Gray Whales were just part of the enjoyment of our stay in this beautiful lagoon. Bottlenose Dolphins, friendly California Sea Lions, Royal

Terns, White Ibis, Frigatebirds and Brown Pelicans flying by, numerous Common and Pacific Loons, Brant Geese, and Surf Scoters are all just a part of the scenery down here.

So it was with great reluctance that we all said our farewells to our panga drivers and the beautiful San Ignacio lagoon, as the Searcher raised anchor and we motored out of the lagoon, in the company of breaching whales and bow-riding dolphins, and we continued our journey southwards.

## Day 7

Friday 27th February

### Magdalena Bay

It was another early start for many, as we made our way south along the peninsula. For most of the day, we were crossing the front of Magdalena Bay. Having once again spent the night travelling through the troughs of a moderate Pacific swell, it was nice to wake up to light winds, crystal clear water and a diminishing sea.

We started the day's wildlife watching early with a large group of several hundred Long-beaked Common Dolphins that entertained us with their antics as they rode the bow. We also encountered a small foraging group of California Sea Lions that cruised by us; we passed a few Green Turtles that were warming themselves at the surface, and we even spotted a solitary Guadalupe Fur Seal too.

As we continued to head southwards, we enjoyed some wonderful close encounters with some courting Humpbacks and an associated group of Bottle-nose Dolphins. We were thrilled by the airborne antics from a huge herd of over a thousand Short-beaked Common Dolphins too. The feeding dolphins were associated with a huge "breezer" of feeding tuna and this, in turn, had attracted hundreds of Black-vented and Pink-footed Shearwaters, and hundreds of Western and California Gulls that squabbled and snatched at baitfish as they were pushed to the surface by the hungry tuna and dolphins. Of course, all this bird activity had also attracted the attention of lots of Pomarine Skuas, who watched from the edge of the mêlée for their chance to snatch a fish from an unsuspecting shearwater. It was one of those great events in natural history, and we had front row seats to the live show!

It was considerably quieter for much of the afternoon. We enjoyed lunch as we travelled, and watched the odd north-bound Humpback as they cruised past in the distance, and people generally relaxed and rested, and enjoyed the ride. Then in late afternoon, we found three more Humpbacks and we stopped to watch them for a while. It was lucky we did, as they suddenly decided to dazzle us all (and probably each other) with a spectacular display of repeated breaching, pec-slapping and tail-lunging, that continued through until sunset.

## Day 8

Saturday 28th February

### Gorda Banks

Rounding the southernmost tip of the peninsula in the early hours of the morning, we were met by a brisk and unexpected northerly wind. However, it hadn't been blowing long, and the sea conditions remained good for whale watching, as we moved along the southern tip of the peninsula toward the Gorda Banks.

There were plenty of Humpbacks in the area, and we could see multiple spouts arising from the water for miles around us. Forster's and Elegant Terns, Frigatebirds and Bonaparte's Gulls circled close to the boat, as we spent the morning watching multiple rowdy groups of Humpbacks, sometimes 10-15 at a time, as they boisterously surfaced, head-lunged and fluked simultaneously, close to the boat.

For the rest of the morning, we continued to search the area and were treated to more and more great views of rowdy groups, some wonderful displays of multiple breaching, fluking, pec-slapping and tail-lobbing: just about everything we could ever hope to see a Humpback do, really. We also got to see some tiny calves breaching, and the whale watching continued all the way to Los Frailes.

When we did eventually decide to break free from the whale watching and approached our anchorage, the wind shifted and started blowing hard from the south-east. Unfortunately, this hampered our ability to safely get ashore. It was as if the universe was telling us we had to keep whale watching, so that's exactly what we did. So more spectacular Humpback watching ensued.

We did eventually break off from our whale watching, and ventured north into the sea of Cortez. We were just in time to watch the beautiful setting sun fall behind the peninsula, before we were called in once again to enjoy another lovely meal.

## Day 9

## Sunday 1st March

### Punta Colorado

After a night motoring north, we awoke to the sound of the slowing engines and clatter of the anchor chain, as we set anchor off the beautiful sandstone cliffs at Punta Colorado, off the southern end of Isla San Jose.

The light cloud cover meant that we didn't see the sunrise fully illuminate the beautiful sandstone cliffs, but we watched as the Brown Pelicans, Turkey Vultures and Peregrines flew past, and enjoyed breakfast at anchor before setting ashore for a morning walk through the desert arroyo.

In the cool of the morning, we were able to spend time looking at some of the wonderful desert plants, and had a good time birding the desert scrub looking for Verdin, Grey Thrashers and Costa's Hummingbirds, before returning to the beach to search for fossils in the beautiful wind- and water-sculpted rock formations.

We returned to the Searcher to get ready for snorkelling, and a change in the prevailing swell meant that we had to relocate to a more sheltered reef nearby. Nevertheless, the wonderful clear water, wide variety of colourful reef fish and sea stars, and even the odd Mexican Spiny Lobster made for a great first snorkel session.

We headed northwards in the afternoon in search of whales. Sightings commenced with a large herd of Long-beaked Common Dolphins, that casually moved in to investigate the Searcher, and lingered to ride in the wake and play on the bow. Then we spotted a big group of Pilot Whales. They were spread out and feeding over a very large area, perhaps several hundred animals, but small groups of individuals did move in very close to investigate the boat, affording us some wonderful views of some very tiny calves. We watched until the early

evening. Then, just as we began to head northwards again, we spotted a distant blow of two sperm whales and we ventured over to have a closer look. Unfortunately, we couldn't get close enough to either of the whales to have a really good look at either of them, but we saw their distinctive sideways blow, and they both fluked nicely for us before they dived. It was great to end our day with a new whale species to add to the list, though.

## Day 10

## Monday 2nd March

### Catalina

It was cool and overcast as we lay at anchor off Isla Santa Catalina, perfect for our morning hike. We found two perfect examples of the endemic Baja 'Rattleless' Rattlesnake, and we marvelled at the wonderful giant Elephant Cacti and range of desert plants (that were flourishing because of the recent rains). The birds were active too and we had some great views of Loggerhead Shrikes, Cardinals, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Verdin, and Ladder-backed and Gila Woodpeckers as we searched the beautiful, cactus-filled valley.

On returning to the Searcher, people readied themselves for snorkelling whilst some took the opportunity for a coastal cruise. The cruisers ended up with some lovely views of Wandering Tattler, and Black-necked Grebe too. But some amazing snorkelling conditions, with lots of colourful reef fish, meant that the snorkelling party had a great time, as well.

After a quick bite of lunch at anchor, we set out to search for whales once again, and were quickly into a large herd of several hundred Common Dolphins that breached alongside the Searcher, as we travelled towards Isla Monserrat. However, larger whales were proving to be elusive.

Nonetheless, the perfect sea conditions meant we did have a brief encounter with three Dwarf Sperm Whales, as we travelled, and two Bryde's Whales, all presenting opportunities to add new cetacean species to our growing list. However, it was for Blue Whales we were searching and, despite a huge amount of life in the area (with thousands of Phalaropes, leaping Mobula Rays and lots of Least and Black Storm Petrels), the bigger roquals remained elusive. As darkness eventually fell we opted to head to our anchorage off Agua Verde, and got ourselves settled in for the night.

## Day 11

## Tuesday 3rd March

### Agua Verde

We woke to an unusually wet Baja morning, with overcast skies and drizzle. Not exactly the conditions we hoped for in the Sea of Cortez, but the crystal clear water, with a greasy smooth surface, and the warm air temperatures meant that we could watch Mobulas cruising around the boat all through breakfast, and that more than made up for the drizzle.

An early morning trip ashore, in the warm desert rain, provided some good birding with lovely views of stunning Phainopepla, Hooded Orioles, Cardinals, and Blue-grey and California Gnatcatchers buzzing in the bushes, and Cactus Wrens and California Quail calling in the distance. There were also plenty of wonderful desert plants to keep us busy for the couple of hours we were ashore. However, one of the biggest highlights of the morning's

visit came when Joan found a newly-hatched Loggerhead Turtle on the beach! This was a particularly unusual find in this area, and even the experienced crew (who have seen most things at one time or another) were excited to take a look.

The weather failed to improve during the course of the morning, but the sea remained slick. Having completed our morning walk, we opted to postpone the snorkelling (because of poor light and visibility) and opted instead to make best use of the excellent sea conditions for whale watching. This was a good move, as we were quickly into an aggregation of Blue Whales that were feeding very close to where we had been anchored all morning. On closer inspection, we found that the aggregation consisted of at least five Blue Whales (including two cow-calf pairs) and several Humpbacks too, and we watched for hours as the whales interacted with one another and surfaced close to the boat.

Having spent nearly four hours with the Blue Whales, we eventually started to make our way south. We hadn't ventured too far, when we were distracted from our course by a splendid show of leaping Smooth-tailed Mobula Rays. This provided us all with a lot of entertainment, as we watched them repeatedly hurl themselves skywards, all around the boat. Such a prolonged performance by so many animals also gave every photographer on board more than enough chances to get the ultimate leaping Mobula shot too (and if you still didn't get anything after that show...you never will !?!)

The weather improved as we ventured further south, and two good sightings of Bryde's Whales simply added to the enjoyment of the day. It seemed only fitting that we ended our day at anchor, as the sun set over the peninsula, enjoying the evening air, with Margaritas and a Barbeque on the back deck.

## Day 12

## Wednesday 4th March

### Isla San Jose mangroves – Los Islotes

Having travelled south through the night, we awoke at anchor off the southern tip of Isla San Jose, where a pre-breakfast trip into the mangroves provided us with a wonderful morning, watching Snowy and Great Egrets, Yellow-crowned and Black-crowned Night-herons, White Ibis, Green and Little Blue Herons, and lots of Mangrove Warblers. There were also a few shorebirds around and, amidst the tangled roots on the muddy shoreline, we spotted Whimbrel, Spotted Sandpipers, Marbled Godwits, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and a few Willets too. It was a truly beautiful morning, and the previous night's rain meant that the visit was relatively midge free too.

We raised anchor and headed south towards Los Islotes. The sea was still like glass and the air and sea temperatures were warm too; all perfect conditions for our snorkel with the sea lions. Los Islotes was relatively quiet when we arrived, lacking its usual aggregation of day boats out of La Paz, and we enjoyed a wonderful, slow skiff ride around the islands. This provided us with some nice views of the Blue-footed and Brown Boobies nesting high on the cliffs, some intimate views of the Sea Lions nursing their young and playing in the water, and some rather nice views of a Wandering Tattler too!

As always, our final meal together on the boat provided us with the perfect opportunity to share photos, recount our stories and describe our highlights from the tour. All agreed that this had been an incredible trip.

## Day 13

Thursday 5th March

We watched as the Searcher finally pulled into the early morning bustle of Cabo San Lucas' busy harbour. We watched the boats and Pelicans, and enjoyed a leisurely continental breakfast, as the Searcher crew set to work refuelling the boat for their long journey back to San Diego.

We said our final farewells to the crew before they set off for their own intrepid journey back up the peninsula and back to San Diego. On our taxi journey into San Jose del Cabo, a few people managed a last glimpse of a Humpback Whale or two as we travelled along the coast road.

By mid-morning, we were in the picturesque colonial town square of San Jose del Cabo. While a few took the chance for some last minute shopping, others followed Lee and Rob down to the estuary for some gentle, last-minute birding along the parts of the estuary that hadn't been made inaccessible by September's terrible hurricane. Both options were certainly preferable to sitting in an airport for hours on end, and gave everyone a last chance to enjoy the warmth of the Mexican sunshine.

By late morning we boarded our taxis once again and set off to the airport for our return flights back to San Diego where we all said our farewells.

## Day 14

Friday 6th March

Today we completed our journeys home, after our exceptional time around Baja.

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## Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; h = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March												
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5
1	Great Northern Diver (Loon)	<i>Gavia immer</i>			✓		✓	✓							
2	Red-throated Diver (Loon)	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		✓											
3	Pacific Diver (Loon)	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>						✓							
4	Black-necked Grebe (Eared)	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	✓								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>		✓											✓
6	Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	✓	✓				✓							
7	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>			✓										
8	Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus creatopus</i>							✓	✓					
9	Black-vented Shearwater	<i>Puffinus opisthomelas</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
10	Black Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma melania</i>							✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
11	Least Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma microsoma</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	
12	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Red-billed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>								✓					
14	American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>		✓											
15	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>			✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
17	Blue-footed Booby	<i>Sula nebouxii</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
18	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓
19	Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>			✓										
20	Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	✓	✓									✓		✓
22	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓				✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
23	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>													✓
24	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓						✓	✓
25	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>		✓										✓	✓
26	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>												✓	✓
27	Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>					✓								

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March												
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5
28	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		✓									✓	✓	✓
29	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax violacea</i>												✓	
30	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>												✓	✓
31	White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>													
32	White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>					✓	✓						✓	✓
33	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>		✓											
34	Black Brant	<i>Branta bernicla</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓							
35	Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>		✓											
36	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓											✓
37	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>		✓											✓
38	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>		✓											✓
39	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		✓											✓
40	Cinnamon Teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>													✓
41	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>		✓											✓
42	American Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		✓											✓
43	American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>		✓											✓
44	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>		✓											✓
45	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>		✓										✓	✓
46	Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>		✓											
47	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>		✓											
48	Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
49	California Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>		h									h		
50	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>					✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
51	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>		✓		✓				✓					✓
52	Coopers Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>													
53	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		✓	✓		✓					✓			✓
54	Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>								✓					✓
55	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓			✓	
56	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		✓											✓
57	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>		✓											✓
58	American Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>			✓										

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			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	
59	American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>							✓					✓		
60	American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>		✓												
61	Grey Plover (Black-bellied)	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>					✓									
62	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>		✓												
63	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>		✓											✓	
64	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>		✓											✓	
65	Willet	<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>		✓											✓	
66	Wandering Tattler	<i>Heteroscelus incanus</i>										✓			✓	
67	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>		✓											✓	✓
68	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus</i>		✓	✓										✓	
69	Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>		✓					✓							
70	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>		✓						✓					✓	
71	Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>			✓											
72	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>								✓						
73	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>		✓					✓	✓						✓
74	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	✓	✓										✓		
75	Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>		✓				✓								✓
76	Grey Phalarope (Red)	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>			✓					✓			✓			
77	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓					
78	Arctic Skua (Parasitic Jaeger)	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>							✓							
79	Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>			✓					✓	✓	✓		✓		
80	Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓
81	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>		✓	✓		✓									
82	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
83	Yellow-footed Gull	<i>Larus livens</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓		
84	Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
85	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>		✓			✓	✓								
86	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		✓												
87	Elegant Tern	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>									✓					
88	Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>		✓							✓					
89	Scripps's Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus scrippsii</i>			✓											

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			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5
90	Craveri's Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus craveri</i>			✓					✓					
91	Cassin's Auklet	<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>			✓	✓									
92	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>										✓	✓		✓
93	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>		✓											✓
94	Common Ground Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>													✓
95	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓											✓
96	Lilac-crowned Parrot	<i>Amazona finschi</i>		✓											
97	Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>									✓				
98	Rufous Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>			✓										
99	Costa's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte costae</i>								✓		✓			✓
100	Xantus' Hummingbird	<i>Hylocharis xantusii</i>													✓
101	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>		✓	✓									✓	✓
102	Gila Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>										✓	✓		✓
103	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides scalaris</i>										✓			
104	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerptes formicivorus</i>		✓											
105	Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>										✓	✓	✓	
106	Pacific Slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficillis</i>											✓		
107	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>		✓											
108	Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>		✓											✓
109	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>			✓										
110	Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>										✓			
111	Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>											✓		
112	Oak Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>		✓											
113	Western Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>		✓									✓		
114	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓		✓					✓	✓	✓		
115	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>		✓									✓		✓
116	Verdin	<i>Auriparus flaviceps</i>									✓	✓			✓
117	Cactus Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>											✓		✓
118	Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>									✓		✓		
119	California Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila californica</i>											✓		
120	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>			✓							✓	✓		✓

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			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	
121	Grey Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma cinereum</i>										✓		✓		
122	European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓												✓
123	Phainopepla	<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>												✓		
124	Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Vermivora celata</i>														✓
125	Mangrove (yellow) Warbler	<i>Setophaga bryanti</i>													✓	
126	Audubon's Warbler	<i>Setophaga auduboni</i>		✓										✓		✓
127	Black-throated Gray Warbler	<i>Setophaga nigrescens</i>														
128	Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>														✓
129	Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>														✓
130	Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>											✓	✓		✓
131	California Towhee	<i>Pipilo crissalis</i>		✓												
132	Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>		✓												
133	Black-throated Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>									✓	✓	✓			
134	Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>			✓											
135	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>		✓												
136	White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>		✓												
137	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓											✓
138	Oregon Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>		✓												
139	Tricolored Blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>		✓												
140	Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>		✓												
141	Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>		✓												
142	Hooded Oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>												✓		✓
143	House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>		✓										✓		✓
144	Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>		✓												

## Mammals

1	Gray Whale	<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>			✓	✓	✓									
2	Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>												5	✓	
3	Bryde's Whale	<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i>											2		✓	
4	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>								✓	100+		✓			

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			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	
5	Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>										2			✓	
6	Dwarf Sperm Whale	<i>Kogia simus</i>											✓		✓	
7	Short-finned Pilot Whale	<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>										400+				
8	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓					✓		
9	Long-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus capensis</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
10	Pacific White-sided Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obliquidens</i>			✓											
11	Short-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>							✓							
12	Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>			✓	✓										
13	California Sea Lion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Guadalupe Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus townsendi</i>			✓				✓							
15	Northern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga angustirostris</i>			✓	✓										
16	Botta's Pocket Gopher	<i>Thomomys bottae</i>		✓												
17	California Ground Squirrel	<i>Otospermophilus beecheyi</i>		✓												

## Reptiles

1	Green Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>					✓		5		✓					
2	Loggerhead Turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>										✓				
3	Zebra-tailed Lizard	<i>Callisaurus draconoides</i>								✓						
4	Common Sideblotched Lizard	<i>Uta stansburiana</i>			✓					✓						
5	Baja Californian Whiptail	<i>Chemidophorus labialis</i>														
6	Orange Throated Whiptail	<i>Cnemidophorus hyperythrus</i>								✓						
7	Baja California 'rattleless' Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus enyo</i>										2				

## Fish

1	California Flying Fish	<i>Cypselurus californicus</i>								✓	✓					
2	Barberfish	<i>Johnrandallia nigrirostris</i>									✓	✓				
3	Yellowfin Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus xanthopterus</i>									✓	✓				
4	Convict Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus triostegus</i>														
5	Moorish Idol	<i>Zanclus canescens</i>										✓		✓		
6	Green Jack	<i>Caranx caballus</i>														

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			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5		
7	Yellowtail Jack	<i>Seriola lalandi</i>															
8	Pilotfish	<i>Naucrates ductor</i>															
9	Pacific Sierra	<i>Scomberomorus sierra</i>															
10	Milkfish	<i>Chanos chanos</i>														✓	
11	Cortez Sea Chub	<i>Kyphosus elegans</i>										✓	✓			✓	
12	Pacific Porgy	<i>Calamus brachysomus</i>											✓			✓	
13	Yellowfin Mojarra	<i>Gerres cinereus</i>											✓				
14	Striped Mullet	<i>Mugil cephalus</i>						✓	✓								
15	Needlefish	<i>Belonidae</i>													✓		
16	Burrito Grunt	<i>Anisotremus interruptus</i>														✓	
17	Graybar Grunt	<i>Haemulon sexfasciatum</i>										✓	✓			✓	
18	Amarillo Snapper	<i>Lutjanus argentiventris</i>														✓	
19	Bumphead Damselfish	<i>Micropathodon bairdii</i>										✓	✓			✓	
20	Cortez Damselfish	<i>Segastes rectifaenum</i>															
21	Beaubrummel	<i>Segastes flavilatus</i>										✓				✓	
22	Panamic Sergeant Major	<i>Abuldefduf troschelli</i>										✓	✓			✓	
23	Blue and Yellow Chromis	<i>Chromis limbaughi</i>										✓	✓			✓	
24	Scissortail Chromis	<i>Chromis atrilobata</i>														✓	
25	Flag Cabrilla	<i>Epinephelus labriformis</i>											✓				
26	Leopard Grouper	<i>Mycteroperca rosacea</i>														✓	
27	Bluechin Parrotfish	<i>Scarus ghobban</i>														✓	
28	Chameleon Wrasse	<i>Halichoeres dispilus</i>										✓				✓	
29	Cortez Rainbow Wrasse	<i>Thalassoma lucasanum</i>										✓	✓			✓	
30	Mexican Hogfish	<i>Bodianus diplotaenia</i>										✓	✓			✓	
31	Tinsel Squirrelfish	<i>Sargocentron suborbitalis</i>											✓				
32	Redhead Goby	<i>Elacantinus punctulatus</i>											✓			✓	
33	Panamic Fanged Blenny	<i>Ophioblennius steindachneri</i>											✓			✓	
34	Mexican Barnacle Blenny	<i>Acanthemblemaria macrospilus</i>											✓				
35	Giant Hawkfish	<i>Cirrhitus rivulatus</i>										✓	✓			✓	
36	Coral Hawkfish	<i>Cirritichthys oxycephalus</i>											✓			✓	
37	Stone Scorpionfish	<i>Scorpaena mystes</i>											✓	✓			

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			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	
38	Orangeside Triggerfish	Sufflamen verres										✓	✓		✓	
39	Remora	Remora remora			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
40	Bullseye Puffer	Sphoeroides annulatus													✓	
41	Guineafowl Puffer	Arothron meleagris										✓	✓		✓	✓
42	Porcupine Puffer	Diodon hystrix													✓	✓
43	Ballonfish	Diodon holocanthus										✓	✓		✓	✓
44	Mexican Goatfish	Mulloidichthys dentatus											✓		✓	
45	Reef Cornetfish	Fistularia commersonii										✓	✓		✓	
46	Mako	Isurus oxyrinchus			✓											
47	Smooth-tailed Mobula	Mobula thurstoni								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

## Butterflies

1	Cloudless Sulphur	<i>Phoebis sennae</i>			✓											
2	West Coast Lady	<i>Vanessa annabella</i>			✓											
3	White Striped Longtail	<i>Chioides albofasciatus</i>									✓					
4	Western Pygmy Blue	<i>Brephidium exilis</i>			✓						✓					
5	White-lined Sphinx Moth	<i>Hyles lineta</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	